

Review of the proposed California Water Plan Update 2018 (draft dated December 2018)

Comments submitted to CWPCOM@water.ca.gov on January 9, 2019

Attention: Francisco Guzman

Note: Comments for this draft are due on January 21, 2019

Comments by Dr. Donna Miranda-Begay

Tubatulabal Tribe – Researcher and Traditional Practitioner

Overall, this plan reflects a good vision and provides goals for California Water Planning that can be achieved by improved collaboration, leadership, and holistic approach of policy making and water management.

Based on my experience and involvement with statewide water planning through participation of Department of Water Resources Tribal Advisory Committee, Regional Blue Print Planning in San Joaquin Valley, Kern County Water District Agency, and 2018 California Tribal Water Summit, I provide my comments for this draft.

Comment 1: Page ES-1, Add to “Challenges to Sustainability” the following bullet item:

- Impact of Federal Administration policy relating to change in use of public lands (i.e., the selling of open use lands for the purpose of oil and gas hydraulic fracking).

Reference to this comment – see Federal Register posting:

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2018/08/08/2018-16957/notice-of-intent-for-potential-amendment-to-the-resource-management-plan-for-the-bakersfield-field>

Comment 2: Page ES-2, “Table ES-1 Update 2018 Recommended Actions Organized by Goal” change action # 4.1 from “Improve Tribal Involvement in Regional Planning Efforts” to “Expand Facilitation of California Native American Tribes’ involvement in Regional Water Planning Efforts and Funding Opportunities”.

Comment 3: page 2-1, Add to Critical Challenges – 2018 California wild fires destroyed several water supply systems. Identify and coordinate the recovery of these systems with federal, tribal, state, and local water management entities.

Comment 4: page 2-4, Insert “Federal and” to first bullet item under “Systemic and Institutional Challenges” – the sentence “Holistically managing California natural resources will require unprecedented collaboration among Federal and State agencies, California Native American Tribes, water districts, land-use entities, flood districts, resource conservation districts, and groundwater sustainability agencies, especially when they share jurisdictional areas, watersheds, ecoregions and groundwater basins.

Comment 5: page 3-1, For “Recommended Action 1.1” description, change “Tribes” to California Native American Tribes”.

Comment 6: page 3-2, per my comment #2 (see above), change under “Goal 4” – “Recommended Action 4.1” description to “Expand Facilitation of California Native American Tribes’ involvement in Regional Water Planning Efforts and Funding Opportunities”. Also, consider using this text for this action item: Consistent with Recommended Action 1.1, and in coordination with the Tribal Advisory Committee and SASC, DWR will improve engagement and consultation with Tribes to better plan and inform water resources management decisions. Develop a better understanding and use of Tribal Ecological Knowledge (TEK) in regard to traditional uses of water, watershed management, ecological changes, protection of cultural resources and landscapes, and current day California Native American Tribes uses and management of water.

Comment 7: page 3-4, For Recommended Action 6.4, include the following text: Promote the develop of California State Geographic Information Systems (GIS) office and services that provide state GIS standards, effective data collection and sharing, and GIS analytic services for the State and citizens.

Comment 8: In this draft plan, I did not see any reference to the 2018 California Tribal Water Summit. There was much discussed my many California Native American Tribes, Federal and State Agencies that could offer and support this water plan’s proposed vision, goals, and actions.

Comment 9: The use of California Native American Tribes should be used – this includes both federally and non-federally recognized Tribes in California.

Comment 10: See attached graphic recommendation for this water plan.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Overall, this plan was concise and provides a meaningful direction in state water planning. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding my comments for this water plan.

Sincerely,

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Graphic Recommendation

Add in a good graphic to introduce your vision and goals (see below example):

